



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

**CORE MPO BOARD
MEETING SUMMARY**

**MPC Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room
112 E. State Street**

April 30, 2009

10:00 A.M.

Voting Members

Russ Abolt
John Bennett
Michael Brown
Jason Buelterman
Patrick S. Graham
William W. Hubbard
James Hungerpilller
McArthur Jarrett
Otis Johnson
Glenn Jones
Mike Lamb
Pete Liakakis
Doug J. Marchand
Charles Odimgbe
Andy Quinney
Gerald Ross
Patrick Shay
Anna Maria Thomas
Wayne Tipton
Jon Todd
LTC Daniel Whitney
Eric R. Winger

Representing

Chatham County
Chairman, CAC
City of Savannah
City of Tybee Island
Savannah Airport Commission
Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce
Town of Vernonburg
Chairman, ACAT
City of Savannah
City of Port Wentworth
City of Pooler
Chairman Chatham County Commission
Georgia Ports Authority
Chatham Area Transit
City of Garden City
GDOT
CAT Board of Directors
Town of Thunderbolt
City of Bloomingdale
Chairman, MPC
Hunter Army Airfield
Savannah Economic Development
Authority (SEDA)

Present

x
x
x

x

x

Voting Member Alternates

George Fidler
Matthew Fowler
Brian Johnson
Diane Schleicher

Representing

Savannah Airport Commission
GDOT
City of Garden City
City of Tybee Island

Present

x
x
x
x

Ex-officio Members

Sonny Timmerman

Representing

Hinesville Area MPO

Present

<u>Others Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Present</u>
Michael Adams	MPO Staff	X
Bill Bailey	Savannah Bicycle Campaign	X
Sean Brandon	City of Savannah	X
Susan Broker	City of Savannah	X
Leon Davenport	Chatham County	X
Jim Gilliamsen	City of Savannah	X
Vikki Graham	Savannah Bicycle Campaign	X
Jo Hickson	Savannah Bicycle Campaign	X
Adam Kirk	Savannah Bicycle Campaign	X
Jane Love	MPO Staff	X
Mike Maynor	Savannah Bicycle Campaign	X
Kyle Mote	GDOT	X
Stephanie Nicotra	Coastal Heritage Society	X
Brad Saxon	GDOT	X
Bob Scanlon	City of Savannah	X
Teresa Scott	GDOT-Jesup	X
Eva Seibert	Savannah Bicycle Campaign	X
Barbara Settzo	for MPO	X
Radney Simpson	GDOT	X
Thomas Thomson, P.E., AICP	MPC Executive Director	X
Wykoda Wang	MPO Staff	X
Mike Weiner	City of Savannah	X
Mark Wilkes, P.E., AICP	MPO Staff	X

Call to Order

Chairman Pete Liakakis called the April 30, 2009 CORE Board Meeting to order.

I. Approval of Agenda

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda as presented.

CORE Board Action: the motion to approve the agenda for the April 30, 2009 meeting carried with none opposed.

II. Committee Reports

A. Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation

Mr. McArthur Jarrett reported that ACAT endorsed the amendments presented by the staff, several of which are on today's agenda. ACAT also approved the change of their meeting date to the fourth Monday of each meeting month.

B. Citizens Advisory Committee

Mr. John Bennett reported that the committee endorsed all amendments presented by the staff. The committee rated selected priority projects presented by staff. Truman Pkwy. Phase V, President St. widening, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. streetscape improvements were the top three projects as voted on by this committee. The committee felt strongly that improperly applied edge-line rumble strips were hazardous to all parties and therefore opposed this project.

C. Technical Coordinating Committee

Mr. Tom Thomson reported that the committee endorsed all the amendments and also rated selected priority projects. Truman Pkwy. Phase V and President St. widening projects tied as first priority. Mr. Thomson reported the complete results of the TCC's rating exercise, as shown in the summary distributed at today's meeting.

D. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Thomson reported on activity since the last meeting. MPO has undergone a review of planning program processes and has been through a quadrennial certification review with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Staff is now addressing issues raised from that review.

Mr. Thomson reported on a letter from GDOT stating that the planning monies awarded this year are about the same as those awarded last year. Also, he received an e-mail from Angela Alexander stating that GDOT was considering not matching the planning grant. Currently the state matches 10% of the 20% match, with the county and city splitting the remaining 10%. His response to her mentioned the poor timing of this change.

Mr. Thomson concluded his report with a brief overview of today's meeting agenda.

III. Action Items

A. Approval of February 25, 2009 CORE Board Meeting Minutes

It was moved and seconded to approve the February 25, 2009 CORE Board Meeting Minutes.

CORE Board Action: the motion to approve the February 25, 2009 CORE Board Meeting Minutes carried with none opposed.

B. Approval of the amendments to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program related to the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009

Mr. Thomson presented the staff report referring to a large spreadsheet and a report included in the information packet. He asked the Board to take action in four different areas: 1) Approve a list of stimulus candidate projects to recommend to GDOT for inclusion in the second phase of the State's stimulus funding awards; 2) Approve a list of stimulus projects to receive the MPO sub-allocation of stimulus funds; 3) Remove from the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program the projects that are now not expected to receive stimulus funding and that have no other funding at this time; 4) At the Board's discretion, they may choose to establish a priority order of the projects they recommend to GDOT.

Mr. Thomson explained that all projects looking for stimulus funding must meet the same criteria and follow the same federal aid process as projects seeking regular federal funding. He reviewed the requirements for project selections and the formula for stimulus funds. He touched briefly on discretionary funds.

Page 2 of the spreadsheet is a list of projects that were added in February and now need to be withdrawn from the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program.

Projects proposed to be recommended for state-wide funding are shown in column 6 on page 1 of the spreadsheet. This list represents the MPO staff's best effort to put before the Board candidate projects that will make the deadline and qualify for stimulus funding. Mr. Thomson listed the candidate projects as follows:

- SR 307 overpass over New Port Authority rail line – construction
- Truman Parkway Phase V – plan to break this into 3 phases – corrected spreadsheet to read \$24 million
- President St. Widening – only the portion that is the bridge over the railroad and the ramp to connect to the Truman Parkway
- Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd streetscape improvements – this is in the transportation enhancement category
- 2 SR 25/US 17 projects – Right-of-way project and construction project
- Edge line rumble strips
- Resurfacing I-95

Mr. Russ Abolt expressed concern that the scaled down versions of President St. and Truman Parkway are now competing with each other for funding. Mr. Thomson responded that they are competing to a degree, but the Truman Parkway is in the goal category of new construction while the President St. project is in the goal category of maintenance. It is also a bridge project, a safety project and a capacity project. Also the State Transportation Board may decide to balance their Phase 2 funding among the congressional districts. In that case, these two projects might be in direct competition; the boundary between District 1 and District 12 needs to be examined closely to know for sure. Mr. Thomson recommends that both projects be kept on the list. It's this board's decision to promote one over the other if the Board chooses to do so. Mr. Michael Brown spoke in favor of the recommendation to let the two projects remain on the list and let it play out.

Mr. Thomson noted that both projects still have some steps to go through to make them ready.

Mr. Patrick Shay believes that the two projects are in different congressional districts.

Ms. Diane Schleicher requested confirmation that these rumble strips would not interfere with bicycle traffic. Could this \$50,000 be reassigned to some other maintenance item to make the county more green? Mr. Thomson responded that the Board could recommend that GDOT not to do this project unless there was considerable design input from the local MPO. This project was listed by GDOT as an eligible project which is why it is on the list.

Mr. Thomson is asking the Board to approve this list of candidate projects.

Mr. Brown has had discussions with the GDOT Board that lead him to believe that the physical location of the Truman Parkway project and the President St. project within a particular congressional district may be a non-issue.

Mr. Patrick Shay moved that “we adopt the recommended projects for state-wide funding that we see on the screen in front of us and have been recommended by staff, with the understanding that the project that involves edge line rumble strips, that there will be continued analysis of ways in which that project could be implemented without precluding or making difficult the idea of bicycle movement along the same corridor.” Mr. Jon Todd seconded the motion.

Mr. Abolt wished the MPO to note that it does not intend to have Truman Pkwy. and President St. compete with each other.

Mr. Shay withdrew his motion because it was out of order, recognizing that Board action was to follow the public hearing on the agenda. Mr. Todd, the seconder, agreed to the withdrawal. It was agreed that Mr. Thomson complete his presentation and then Mr. Liakakis open the public hearing before any motions are made by the CORE Board.

Mr. Thomson reviewed the list of projects in the CORE MPO sub-allocation (column 8 of the spreadsheet). These projects include multiple City of Savannah signal-related projects, Anderson St. curve reconstruction, West Gwinnett St. curve reconstruction, Bay St. operational improvement & safety right-of-way, Islands Expressway Bascule Bridge, study for Bull River & Lazaretto Creek bicycle & pedestrian connections, SR 204 corridor study, and SR 21 corridor study.

Ms. Schleicher confirmed that Tybee Island is in agreement with the change in the nature of the Bull River and Lazaretto Creek crossings project since it seems to be the only course of action, at this time, to achieve the city’s goal. Tybee Island staff had participated in a conference call with MPO staff and GDOT staff regarding the options.

Mr. Thomson reviewed the transit list of projects totaling approximately \$4.5 million (column 10). He also briefly commented on the discretionary grant project list (column 12).

These projects are proposed to pursue funding through the discretionary grant application process, and thus will be placeholder projects in TIP. Page 2 of the spreadsheet is the list of deletions from the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program. He is requesting the Board's approval of the GDOT candidate list, the MPO candidate list and the list of deletions.

Mr. Abolt and Mr. Brown would like the balance of the President St. project to be put in the discretionary grant list.

Mr. Brown moved that the project list be amended to include any project balance of both the Truman Parkway project and President Street project in the discretionary grant list.

Mr. Liakakis noted that this motion was out of order until after the public hearing.

Mr. Liakakis opened the public hearing. Mr. Adam Kirk from the Savannah Bicycle Campaign commented on the study of the Bull River and Lazaretto Creek bridges. His group supports a high priority to the study of non-motorized transportation along this corridor. With respect to rumble strips, they agree with the Citizens Advisory Committee and others that in order to be safe the rumble strips should comply with USDOT standards which require at least a 4' space on the right-hand side of the rumble strip. They request that all USDOT standards be followed. And in the matter which was removed from the priority list he offered the group's thanks to the County Commission for moving forward with the project as noted in the newspaper. They understand the technical reasons which led to it being removed from the priority list and offered their help to Pat Monahan and others to move forward with this project. The group asks that since it cannot be funded with stimulus funds that this project be included in the MPO program for regular funding.

Ms. Jo Hickson clarified that Mr. Kirk was describing the Truman Linear Park Trail in his final comment.

Mr. Liakakis closed the public hearing, seeing no other members of the public come forward.

Mr. Shay moved "that we adopt the three elements that were brought forward to us by staff today - the GDOT-managed projects, the local attributable projects, the rescissions, and the CAT projects. In addition I would like to include on the place holder projects for discretionary grant purposes, with the understanding that this list is a wish list so it doesn't preclude or compete with any of the other items that have been presented today, the balance of any funding necessary to finish the President Street continuation. I would also like to add to that list \$600,000 for the Truman Linear Park overpass segment which was in and out and back in and out again as we move forward, and just hoping we might be able to get a grant for that, and also the addition of one Heritage street car for the existing street car system that we have in the City of Savannah for \$400,000. I had a conversation with Sean Brandon, the city's Mobility Director, and he feels confident that if we were able to obtain a grant for that much, not only could we get another street car for the streetcar

system so that we had redundancy, but also that the street car, for the most part, could be locally manufactured and outfitted.”

Mr. Brown seconded.

Mr. Liakakis asked if this motion had to be separated or could it be all-inclusive. Mr. Jon Todd and Mr. Thomson replied that it could be treated as one motion unless someone objected to any portion.

Mrs. Schleicher asked if Mr. Shay would amend his motion to include the rumble strip issue mentioned previously.

Mr. Shay amended the motion. “In the projects that are allocated that include the rumble strips along Tybee Rd that innovative ways of doing the rumble strips so as not preclude normal and safe operation of bicycles on that same pathway.”

Mr. Todd offered the correction of “edge line rumble strips in the proposed package and not just along Tybee Rd.” Mr. Shay accepted that correction to his amendment.

Mr. Abolt requested that the minutes record the motion verbatim.

Mr. Brown recapped the 4 components of Mr. Shay’s motion and restated is as follows:

The motion’s intent was to accept “staff recommendation as modified by the Truman Linear Pathway, the balance of President St. in the placeholder projects, the rumble strips are recommended but consideration of an alternate that is not harmful to bicycle passageway, and the addition of another streetcar.”

Mr. Thomson offered the following modification: correct the amount of the Truman Parkway from \$23,000,000 to \$24,000,000 and correct the project name from Study for Bull River and Lazaretto Creek Bridge Replacement to Study for Bull River and Lazaretto Creek Bicycle and Pedestrian connections.

Ms. Wykoda Wang noted that all of these items mentioned in the motion needed to be reviewed and deemed qualified and construction-ready before they could proceed. Mr. Thomson commented that staff will evaluate and recommend at the next meeting what projects we would apply for. There is still time to do this.

CORE Board Action: the motion to approve the staff recommended amendments to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program related to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 with the following six modifications carried with none opposed:

- **Any remaining balance of the President St project be added to the discretionary grant list**
- **\$600,000 for the Truman Linear Pathway be added to the discretionary grant listing**

- **\$400,000 for one Heritage Streetcar for the City of Savannah streetcar system**
- **Rumble strips are recommended but with consideration of an alternate that is not harmful to bicycle passageway**
- **correct the amount of the Truman Parkway Phase V from \$23,000,000 to \$24,000,000**
- **correct the project name from Study for Bull River and Lazaretto Creek Bridge Replacement to Study for Bull River and Lazaretto Creek Bicycle and Pedestrian connections**

C. Amendment to FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program related to update of transit financial information

Ms. Wang presented the proposed amendments to the transit section of the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Charles Odimgbe, the new Executive Director for CAT, had reviewed the TIP and found that some figures are inaccurate or need updating. This amendment is to make those corrections in the TIP, incorporate the funds from the ARRA economic stimulus, and make minor administrative corrections.

Mr. Liakakis opened the public hearing. There being no comments, he closed the public hearing.

There being no further CORE board discussion, it was moved and seconded to approve the amendment to FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program related to the update of transit financial information as presented by staff.

CORE Board action: the motion to approve the amendment to FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program related to the update of transit financial information as presented by staff carried with none opposed.

D. Authorization to begin process for requested amendments to the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan

Ms. Jane Love presented this report. As the first step in a two-step amendment process, staff is asking for the Board's authorization to proceed with further study of the requested amendments. The projects in question are:

- SR 204 widening project – modify project description to reflect that it will be an interchange project at King George Blvd and SR 204. The Citizens Advisory Committee excluded this item from their endorsement.
- Inclusion of the study of Interstate 3 from Savannah to Knoxville – GDOT requested it be in the TIP since it is part of SAFETEA-LU. This is only a study at this time.
- New rail tie-in to Georgia Ports Authority Intermodal Container Transfer Facility – this project has its own funding with a combination of federal earmark and Port funding.
- Diamond Causeway Widening Project – modify project description from a 4-lane widening project to a 2-lane bridge-replacement project.

Voting on these actual amendments will be scheduled for the June meeting. At this time staff is asking for the authority to do further study.

It was moved and seconded to authorize the process to begin for the requested amendments to the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan.

CORE Board Action: the motion to authorize the process to begin for the requested amendments to the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan carried with none opposed.

E. Public Input Hearing: MPO priorities for development of the FY 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program

Ms. Wang reported that today's meeting includes a public hearing on the previously established Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) prioritization policies and priorities. Ms. Wang defined the following terms:

- First Priority projects (formerly adopted as top priority) are projects that had construction phase programmed for funding in previous TIPs.
- Second Priority projects (formerly adopted as 1st priority) are projects that have significant regional impact.
- Third Priority projects (formerly adopted as 2nd priority) are projects in previous TIPs with higher benefit/cost ratios.
- Transit Priority Projects are projects submitted by Chatham Area Transit

Mr. Thomson noted that priorities don't need to be attached to money at this point. A project can be deemed priority whether it has money or not.

Ms. Wang showed a map of the previously-adopted priorities and listed projects in each priority level:

- 1st priority – 2 bridge replacements, Whitefield Ave widening, Skidaway Rd improvements, SR 307 widening, Ogeechee Rd widening, and Gwinnett St. widening
- 2nd priority - Skidaway Narrows bridge replacement, SR 204 widening, Truman Parkway Phase V
- 3rd priority – Islands Expressway bridge replacements, SR 307 overpass, Jimmy DeLoach parkway extension, SR 21 widening, Bay St widening and President St project.

Stimulus funded projects will be included as part of the new TIP because they will be in FY 2010. There has been one public meeting on this prioritization process in March. Ms. Wang shared some of the public comments received at that time.

Ms. Wang explained that some of the comments received were more related to policy than to specific projects. Mr. Brown commented that pedestrian & bicycle issues, whether policy or project related, should be part of the Transportation Improvement Program.

Mr. Thomson added that in the update of the Long Range Transportation Plan policies will be emphasized, including an updated bicycle plan and the inclusion of a pedestrian plan. Ms. Wang noted that the Transportation Improvement Program includes project descriptions for each project. If the project description includes references to pedestrian and bicycle issues, these will be addressed and implemented.

Mr. Liakakis opened the public hearing. There being no public comments, the hearing was closed. No action is required by the CORE board today.

F. Approval of the revisions to the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan and to the Program Management Plan

Ms. Wang reported that in order to receive Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom funds, which are now formula funds, there must be a coordinated plan in place and it must be up to date. There must also be a Program Management Plan. She outlined the steps in the process. The two plans were adopted in October 2007, but since that time there have been developments which now need to be reflected the plans. These revisions include reflecting that Chatham Area Transit (CAT) was named the designated recipient for these funds, noting the Memorandum of Understanding between CAT and MPC for planning and administration of these funds, and describing the two rounds for Call for Projects and the project selection process. At this time the staff is recommending adopting the revised plan to keep JARC & New Freedom funds flowing uninterrupted to benefit low income people and those with disabilities.

Mr. Liakakis opened the public hearing. There being no public comment, the hearing was closed.

It was moved and seconded to approve the revisions to the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan and to the Program Management Plan as presented by staff.

CORE Board action: the motion to approve the revisions to the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan and to the Program Management Plan as presented by staff carried with none opposed.

G. Approval of CORE Board resolution endorsing to Federal Transit Administration and Georgia Dept. of Transportation the study of a high-speed rail link between Savannah & Macon as part of the study for high-speed rail in Georgia and the Southeast.

Mr. Michael Adams presented the resolution to the Board for their approval so that staff could include this in a letter to GDOT Intermodal encouraging them to include a Savannah to Macon line in the overall study of a high-speed rail line in the Southeast.

It was moved and seconded to approve the CORE Board resolution endorsing to Federal Transit Administration and Georgia Dept. of Transportation the study of a high-speed rail link between Savannah & Macon as part of the study for high-speed rail in Georgia and the Southeast.

Mr. Brown asked staff to look into internal rail corridors either for rails to trails or for streetcar linkages as we look into the Long Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Thomson confirmed this would be done. They also plan to break out a Transit/Mobility Plan and invited those with an interest to begin scoping out this plan. They may be ready to present in June, but it is not up against any deadline at this time.

Mr. Odimgbe stated that it is critical that we participate in the discussion and decision of the actual high-speed rail route. Mr. Thomson noted that we need to beware of local transit monies being siphoned off into a state-wide system.

CORE Board Action: the motion to approve the CORE Board resolution endorsing to Federal Transit Administration and Georgia Dept. of Transportation the study of a high-speed rail link between Savannah & Macon as part of the study for high-speed rail in Georgia and the Southeast carried with none opposed.

IV. Status Reports

A. Submittal for review of the FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program

Ms. Love reported that staff is awaiting comments from Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to incorporate into the FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program. A special May meeting may be necessary to approve this program since the MPO has not yet received FHWA's comments. FHWA had said they would have their comments ready today. FHWA has asked that the CORE Board not take action on the program until staff receives and addresses their comments.

B. Call for projects for Job Access Reverse Commute Funding (JARC) and New Freedom Funding

Ms. Wang reported that, when there was a call for projects last year, the Coastal Center for Developmental Services applied for New Freedom funds but could not provide the local match, so the funds had to be released to other eligible recipients.

There was a second call for projects in March-April 2009. Chatham Area Transit (CAT) applied for the JARC funds, and the City of Savannah and Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center (RDC) requested New Freedom funds. City of Savannah would like to purchase accessible taxis. Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center would like funding to provide service to disabled communities, who are within the urbanized area but beyond the ¾ mile of fixed bus route, an area that now is not covered by either Teleride or the RDC's rural coordinated program. Staff is currently reviewing these two projects and

will submit them to CAT for CAT to include in their application. The City of Savannah is coordinating with RDC to set up a local match for the first year only.

C. Transit Planning Stakeholder Meeting of April 24, 2009

Mr. Adams reported on a brain-storming meeting that the MPO held last week with interested parties to devise a vision plan for transit. The next step will be for the consultant to put together a scope for this study. It is expected in the next couple of weeks. Mr. Thomson noted that there will be additional meetings on this topic as this project moves forward.

V. Agency Reports

A. Georgia Department of Transportation

Ms. Teresa Scott presented her update by highlighting projects of interest.

- Project #4 (SR 307 & Dean Forest Rd.) has a detour open house scheduled for May 14, 2009.
- Project #5 (SR 204 Spur/Whitefield Ave.) – the county is now purchasing ROW; appraisals are underway
- Project #7 (Skidaway Narrows Bridge) – working on the environmental document and they have advertised for the project. They expect to have a contractor in place by October to begin design with construction expected a year later (October 2010). They hope to let the project around July 17th.
- Project #9 (I-16 & I-95 Interchange lighting) – lighting agreements submitted and final design is underway. They hope to let by the end of the year if funding is available.
- Project #14 (Gwinnett St.) – revised concept received and now under review
- Project #2 (bridge over railroad in Port Wentworth) – approved in the Phase I of ARRA funding and ready to let.

Mr. Abolt asked for clarification on ARRA funding for “maintenance” projects, specifically for re-surfacing projects. Mr. Fowler and Ms. Scott noted that some roads don’t qualify for federal funds, such as local roads. Also, while day-to-day maintenance, like mowing grass, is not eligible, large maintenance projects such as re-surfacing and guard rail replacement could qualify if it is for a federally qualified road. Stimulus funding (ARRA funds) is no different than regular federal funding; the same type of project could qualify for either. Mr. Abolt confirmed that the county is re-submitting its list.

B. Chatham County

Mr. Leon Davenport reported that the Truman Parkway Phase V project is ready to go depending on how GDOT wants to break it up. For Whitefield Ave., the County will be shortly acquiring right-of-way. They are working with the city on proposed improvements for the Skidaway Rd. corridor.

C. City of Savannah
i. Traffic Engineering

Mr. Mike Weiner reported that they are putting the contract documents together for the E. Anderson St. and W. Gwinnett St. curve reconstruction projects so they can go to bid. Traffic signal equipment for Chatham Pkwy. is on order. President St. widening project will go to bid shortly.

Mr. Abolt commented that the new turn lanes for Truman Pkwy. at Victory Dr. are good, but the potential exists at all times of day for grid-lock on Victory Dr. near Truman Parkway and the shopping center. Mr. Weiner noted that they are working with GDOT on the traffic issue coming off the Truman Pkwy. exit onto Victory Dr.

Mr. Thomson noted that the second Congestion Management Process report will include strategies for this area.

Mr. Brown commented that ambulances from other jurisdictions must be equipped with the ambulance pre-emption equipment. The city is working with other communities on this issue. He also requested a study of regulation of traffic and enforcement of those who tie up the intersections. Mr. Liakakis asked Mr. Brown for media attention on this issue. Mr. Brown asked for a study and analysis that will show the public what the specific factors are that affect traffic on DeRenne Avenue.

Mr. McArthur Jarrett requested an improvement of the audible pedestrian signals, specifically the one at Oglethorpe Avenue and Drayton St. He believes it is a serious hazard for those who are blind or visually impaired. He requested better synchronization and an increase in volume. He asked for a city official to meet with him on that corner to experience and discuss the problem. He also questioned some of the locations for audible signals; some seem to be in areas that don't have that high of a pedestrian presence. Mr. Weiner replied that residents in the area have complained about the loudness of the audible signals so he is working with both groups to find a compromise volume level that satisfies both. Regarding the locations of the audible signals, the City has been working from a list of intersections provided by the Savannah Association for the Blind. Mr. Jarrett questioned whether the volume could be programmed to be lower at night and higher in the day. He sees this as a vital safety issue.

D. Chatham Area Transit

Mr. Odimgbe reported they are awaiting the arrival of the new hybrid buses. They are also reviewing and making improvements to bus stops. They are making adjustments on one route now and if it works out they will expand it to other routes. Stops along Broughton are also under review.

E. Georgia Ports Authority

No report at this time.

F. Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport

No report at this time.

VI. Other Business

No other business at this time.

VII. Other Public Comments

No public comments at this time.

Adjournment

There being no other business to come before the Committee, the April 30, 2009 CORE Board Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Wilkes, P.E., AICP
Director of Transportation Planning